



Part7– Repairing Relationships

May 19, 2019

*How very easy it is to manipulate and even victimize our brothers and sisters! How quickly the thin thread of freedom snaps as heavy weights of perfectionistic expectations are placed on us! Christ Jesus never did that with his own. When people were near him there was an incredible magnetism because of an absence of unrealistic expectations and subtle demands and manipulative devices. He did not use pressure tactics. He simply accepted people as they are. (Chuck Swindoll in *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*.)*

Choices for healthy, productive, godly growth

1. Admitting need
 2. Getting help
 3. Letting go
 4. Coming clean
 5. Making changes
 6. Repairing relationships
 7. Maintaining _____
 8. _____ pain
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Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV) – “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24 (The Message) – *This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.*

- Relationships are so important that God expects us to repair them _____ we settle in to worship him.
- Relational repair work is a two-part process: _____ those who have hurt us and making _____ to those we have hurt.

Why should we forgive those who have hurt us?

- Because _____ has forgiven us
- Because _____ doesn't work
- Because you'll need forgiveness in the _____

How do we forgive others?

- Be _____ about the fact that you are hurt.
- _____ the one who hurt you
- Replace your hurt with God's _____.

How do we make amends?

- Make a list of those you've hurt and what you did.
- Think about how you'd like someone to make amends to you.
- Refocus your life

Next Steps

Pray about it. Ask God to help you forgive those who have hurt you and to help you make amends to those you have hurt.

Write about it.

- Make a list of those you need to forgive and why.
- Make a list of those to whom you need to make amends and why.

Share about it.

- Share these lists with a trusted friend before you set out to forgive and make amends.
- Have your friend pray for you.